

Matt Geer

# Extra Omnes

for organ

2025

# Programme note

In the sacred stillness of the Sistine Chapel, as the doors close and the outside world falls away, a unique kind of silence descends, not empty, but charged with waiting. This piece intends to inhabit this space of expectancy. It is not a hymn of words, but of voiceless prayer, a meditation in chords.

Each harmony in this work arises like incense in still air: coloured, unresolved, delicately dissonant. The chords do not move quickly or speak plainly; instead, they hold and shape time, letting each cluster of sound resonate until it dissolves into the next. The music does not build toward a climax or follow a liturgical script. Rather, it listens inward. In this piece, it is the silence between the chords where the music truly speaks, in the breath before the next harmony, in the space that allows dissonance to glow rather than resolve.

The final chord, rooted in C, does not close the piece but opens it. It holds within it light and shadow, fragility and radiance, a sonic image of the moment when the world waits to hear the words *Habemus Papam*. This chorale is not a depiction of the conclave. It is a reverent pause inside it.

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Duration: 3'10"

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Lacrimoso  $\text{♩} = 60$

All soft flutes

First system of the musical score. It consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass staff. The grand staff is marked *pp delicate*. The music is in 6/4 time and features complex chordal textures with frequent changes in meter (4/4, 5/4, 6/4). The bass staff contains a single melodic line with a long note in the 5/4 measure.

Second system of the musical score, continuing the complex chordal textures and meter changes from the first system. The grand staff continues with dense block chords and the bass staff continues with its melodic line.

Third system of the musical score, showing further development of the organ texture with various time signatures and chordal structures.

Fourth system of the musical score, concluding the piece with a final cadence. The grand staff features a dense, sustained chordal texture, and the bass staff concludes with a melodic phrase.